

Avery Landing Monitoring

Columbia Geotechnical Associates (CGA) is assisting GeoEngineers in remediation at the Avery Landing site. Cultural Resources compliance activities at the site include monitoring to record archaeological features and buried portions of the historic archaeological site that are not visible or known at present. CGA will conduct monitoring according to recommendations from previous cultural resources work on site by Applied Archaeological Research. These include:

1. Identification and documentation of known and newly identified archaeological features of interest.
2. Monitoring of the project for unknown archaeological resources.
3. Reporting of the work, which includes development of a summary of findings.
4. Updated historic site documentation to be submitted to the Idaho SHPO on finalization of the project.

Proposed Methods and Procedures

1. Prior to initiation of the project CGA will meet with project fieldwork leads to acquaint them with the scope of the fieldwork as well as to provide an overview of specific items of archaeological interest to look for. Archaeological monitoring by a professional archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications (36 CFR Part 61) and has any specialized experience and expertise necessary to will take place during ground disturbing activities which have the potential to affect archaeological deposits within the work area.
2. The archaeological monitor will stand near the excavator and observe as sediment is pulled away from archaeological features 1, 3, 4 and 5 (figure 22 in the AAR report).
3. If features related to the layout are exposed during the ground disturbance, they will be documented on the site map, and photos will be taken.
4. Any new features or artifact concentrations will be described in the final report and added as an amendment to the archaeological site form.
5. Daily progress of the construction and monitoring work will be recorded. At the completion of the monitoring, the Archaeologist will prepare a report on the methods and results of the work, illustrated with maps, drawings, and photographs as appropriate.
6. Final project report of monitoring makes a statement that supports or denies the eligibility of the location for the National Register of Historic Places.

Discovery Procedures for Recording of Incidental Features and Artifacts.

If incidental or demonstrably non-NRHP eligible cultural materials or features are discovered during construction, the Monitor will immediately halt work at that location and notify the on-site Construction Supervisor. Incidental or demonstrably non-NRHP eligible cultural materials or features include—but are not limited to—isolated pre-contact or historic period artifacts, and cultural materials younger than 50 years old. The discovery area and a surrounding buffer zone shall then be delineated with flags tied to long stakes that are driven in to the ground. These stakes shall not be removed. The Monitor will thoroughly document and sample the cultural material. The buffer zone established around the discovery zone shall be large enough to allow ground disturbance activities to resume outside the buffer.

Protocol for Inadvertent Discovery of Potentially NRHP Eligible Cultural Resources.

If potentially NRHP eligible cultural resources are discovered, the Monitor will immediately halt work at that location and notify the on-site Construction Supervisor. Potentially NRHP eligible cultural materials include; evidence of prehistoric or historic features including postholes/molds, hearths, pits, walls, foundations, and other evidence of structural remains; shell midden, non-human bone, lithic debitage, formed-stone –bone –shell –wood or –fiber implements, historic-period glass and ceramics. The discovery area and a surrounding buffer zone will then be delineated with flags tied to long stakes that are driven in to the ground. These stakes shall not be removed. The buffer zone established around the discovery zone shall be large enough to allow ground disturbing activities to resume outside the buffer. The Monitor will then coordinate with the on-site Construction Supervisor to determine whether further impacts to the NRHP eligible cultural resources can be avoided in which case the Monitor will thoroughly document and sample the disturbed cultural material. If further impacts to the NRHP eligible cultural resources cannot be avoided, the Monitor shall contact GeoEngineers who will coordinate a response with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

Project Deliverables

1. Archaeological site update form
2. Report of findings to be submitted to DOE and Idaho SHPO

Summary for Avery Landing Monitoring

Columbia Geotechnical Associates (CGA) was present at the Avery Landing site (10SE476) during earthmoving activities in May 2013. The goal for the current investigation was for an archaeologist to observe and record subsurface deposits related to the remnants of the Avery Division Rail Yard observed in the initial cultural inventory (AAR Technical Report 1095; Hale and Roulette 2012). Further documentation of previously recorded (and unrecorded) surficial scatters and features as recommended in the AAR report would consist of the recording of each known feature by exposing the

subsoil, and documenting the cultural constituents within the subsoil, if present, to further determine the eligibility of the property with the NRHP (National Register of Historic Places). In addition to the recording of the cultural materials and features, AAR recommended that the onsite archaeologist brief any of the engineering and construction personnel of the nature of the site as an Archaeological site, and how to treat any cultural materials or features that might be discovered as remediation work on the site continues.

Results

Prior to CGA arriving on site, 10SE476 was grubbed and cleared. Surficial deposits recorded in the AAR survey have been removed from the site (Scatters 1-5). Features 1, 3 and 5 were cleared by toothless bucket and trenches were dug in judgmental locations to determine total dimensions including width, height, and depth. Feature 4, the turntable, was surficially revealed with a toothless bucket and a cross section was dug from west to east from inside the perimeter of the exposed concrete structure to determine total dimensions. All excavated soils were replaced back into trenches. Subsoils in and around features 1, 3, and 5 consisted of original fill and a scattering of railroad debris including rails, a boxcar door, and railroad ties as well as dense amounts of broken concrete consistent with building demolition. Subsoils within feature 4 seemed to be comprised of wood debris and a mixture of modern and historic refuse including modern cans and bottles, bedsprings, car parts, and household goods. It is likely the large opening left by the removal of the roundhouse served as a repository for the 'junk' on the property that accumulated after it was officially taken down in the 70's. Cultural material within feature 4 seems consistent with descriptions of material observed at surface Scatter 5.

Conclusions and Recommendations

CGA followed recommendations in the initial AAR cultural resource survey that 1) previously recorded and unrecorded cultural materials and/or features be recorded as they appear in the subsurface and 2) on site personnel are given a verbal synopsis of what might be considered an important historical resource and possible actions to take in case of an inadvertent discovery. The AAR report also states that only areas near the rail yard structures (Features 1, 3, 4 and 5) need to be monitored by an archaeologist as remediation progresses. Based on the results of the site work, no new data exists to change the draft AAR determination that the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Because the exploratory excavations conducted in May 2013 to further document features at the site gathered adequate information to complete the archaeological site characterization, no additional archaeological oversight for the project as it currently stands is warranted.